

PRICE 2d

NOTICE is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of shareholders of the Chamber of Commerce and Exchanges, Sydney, on THURSDAY, 11th DECEMBER, 1908, at 11 a.m., to consider and adopt, or otherwise, the following resolution, is hereby submitted:—That the resolution passed by the shareholders at a special general meeting held on 11th December 1907, relating to the purchase of the premises, held on 11th December 1907, having for its object the acquisition of this company with Curriel and Beards' G. M. Co. (Limited), and the purchase of the premises, held on 11th December 1907, be and the same is, hereby approved and confirmed.

By order of the Directors,
GEORGE HARDIE, Manager.

TO BUTCHERS and others.—Wanted to purchase two large Butcher's BLOCKS. Apply Elder's, 511, King street.

CIGARETTES.—20 dozen wanted. Apply for particulars at 736, George-street, Haymarket.

took the chair at thirty

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if a company is willing to undertake the work, it will furnish an additional source for those people declining it. But it does not follow that a company is to be allowed to do without any other control or guarantee such as it chooses to offer, and if this business is to be done by private companies, it should be in some way under the surveillance of the Supreme Court.

While we cannot go so far as to say that private companies cannot exist and operate without control, we are, however, compelled to admit that there is a great deal to be in favour of Mr. OLIVER's suggestion, and the business should form a Government

al, and political life. We have already
official Curator of Interstate Estates. It
ould only be a slight extension of the
inciple involved in this office, though it
ught be a great extension of duty, to have
Government Trustee for Wills generally.
The only difference is, that in the one case,
people die without making any will at all,
that in the other, they die, making the
Government their executor. In the one case,
Government is made the trustee involun-
tarily, in the other voluntarily; in the one
by default, in the other of set purpose.
It is obvious that if, in the case of Inter-
state Estates, a Government official can
manage property on behalf of the heredi-
taries, there is no difference of principle in
dealing the same thing on behalf of persons
becoming left in his care.

We only know of two objections to make
trustee business a Government depart-
ment. The first is the tendency in all official

competition of life, and the heads of departments are not much raised up by the prospect of promotion. It is true that first-class men will always do their duty; but then the Civil Service is not sufficiently supplied with first-class men. It is very largely a refuge for those who have failed to succeed in the severity of the role of life. Political patronage puts men and political patronage pushes men on. We have seen, too, in the case of Victoria, that the best men in the public service may at any time be suddenly dismissed, as a result of political spite. There is nothing to prevent a violent Ministry in any of the parties from doing the same thing, and while it remains the case, there is a disadvantage to competent men seeking the Government service. The more important the posts we desire men to occupy, the more important it is that we should get good men to go into them. Furthermore, it sometimes happens that, when we get good men, they

a blockade is caused by an undeveloped of what the late Mr. Rogers called "the objecting talent." Suppose we had Government trustees, irrefragable in character and professionally competent, yet disinterestedly troubled with "the objecting talent," and suppose the widows and orphans as much troubled to get their quarterly dividends as landowners have had to get their property through the Land Titles Office, the department would not be considered a success.

The second objection to having a Government department for this work is the general expediency of multiplying Government work. The tendency is very strong that way already, perhaps too strong. The number of officials is enormous in proportion to the national population, and the people are being urged to look to the Government in everything. The political evils of this state of things are admitted; they are growing every

perhaps the best way to keep a private
free company straight, and at the same
time to keep a Government department al-
ike, would be to allow the two to work in
competition, and to leave the public free to
choose whether it would employ the private
or the official agency. People would soon
learn to see which was the best, and it is
hard to suppose that the one was for any
reason distinctly superior to the other. It
is hard, in the battle of life, practically to
punish its rival.

The Afghanistan papers to which we
referred yesterday begin with the treaty
between the British Government and Dor-
ranizad in March, 1855, and end with the
manifesto addressed by Lord SALISBURY to
KHOJA ALI in October, 1878. These papers
therefore, extend over a period of nearly
a quarter of a century. They describe in detail

Persianistan during this period. They discuss the various lines of policy that have been followed by the different Viceroyalties of India, and by the different provinces of England. They retrace the quarrels between the Amer of Afghanistan and his neighbors, and describe the changes of the Afghan Potentate's dispositions towards England as well as the rise and growth of his sympathy with Russia. But the one subject of especial interest to the world, dealt with in these papers, is the progress which Russia has been making in Central Asia.

reduced to 1000 miles. What chance has he to recover from the losses which he sustained by the Crimean war, his first concern was to strengthen her position in Asia where, as Sir H. C. Paterbury points out, she escaped a greater calamity than she had suffered in Europe. The success which Russia achieved in this part of the world may be traced from the fact that the distance between Russian and British frontiers is now less than four hundred miles, and this distance is being reduced every year. The Russian policy in Asia at this moment, it is said, aims at the conquest of Herat and at an advance to the Persian Gulf, and the Russian Empire hopes that when she reaches the ocean she will be able to take India in flank. Such an ambition as this is systematically discovered by the Russian Government itself. Not long ago Prince GORTSCHAKOFF assured the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg that the Go-

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